

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have been canceled. New claims 17 and 18 are in this application.

Claims 1 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,169,543 (Wehmeyer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,323,883 (Minoura), U.S. Patent No. 6,532,589 (Proehl), U.S. Patent No. 5,960,406 (Rasanky), U.S. Patent No. 6,018,372 (Etheredge) and U.S. No. 5,805,763 (Lawler).

As previously indicated, claims 1 and 5-7 have been canceled.

New independent claims 17 and 18 have been added herein. It is respectfully submitted that support for the features of claims 17 and 18 are provided in the present application. In this regard, and as an example, reference is made to Fig. 6 and paragraphs 0103 to 0111 of the present application. Further, it is respectfully submitted that such new claims 17 and 18 are distinguishable from the combination of Wehmeyer, Minoura, Proehl, Rasanky, Etheredge and Lawler applied by the Examiner.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

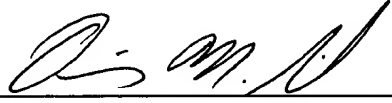
Application No.: 09/895,755

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-184

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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